

Special Educational Needs and Disability

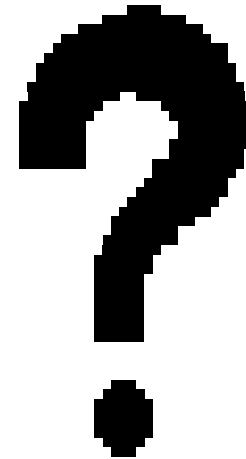


Information for
Children and
Young People

Why are my parents going to a Tribunal hearing?

Your parents and the Children's Service cannot agree about some part of your education. They might not agree about the help you need in school. They might not agree which school you should go to.

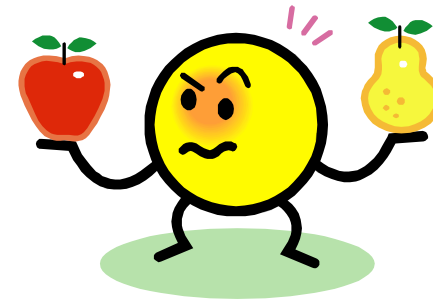
Your parents and the children's Service have agreed to come to the Tribunal hearing to talk about what is best for you and your education.



All the people at the hearing will be friendly and polite with each other.



Everyone has agreed that the Tribunal should make the final decision.



Where will the hearing be?

The Tribunal will happen in a town or city closer to the area in which you live.

It can be held in Tribunal Service buildings or hotels.

There will be somewhere for you to sit and wait and talk to each other.

You will be able to go to the toilet when you need to.



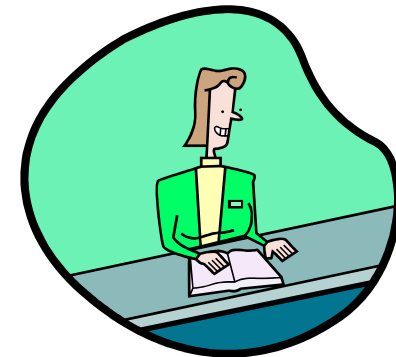
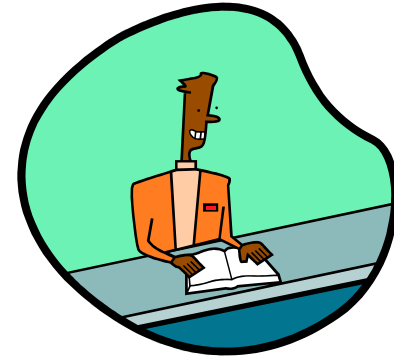
What do I have to do?

Before the hearing we would like to find out how you feel about the things you do in school. You could write about the activities that you and your friends enjoy, or you could draw a picture, or even take photographs. Your parents can send these to us.



Who will be at the Tribunal?

- The Clerk
- You and your parents will be met by the clerk, who can be a man or a woman. The clerk will show you where to wait and will answer any questions you have. The clerk will lead the way into the room when it is time for the hearing.



The Tribunal Panel

There are three people on a Tribunal panel. One person knows about the law and is in charge of the hearing. The other two people have worked with children with special education needs and know what is important for them in schools. These three people will have read a lot of papers about you and will be very interested to meet you and talk to you. Everyone wears ordinary clothes, not uniforms, robes or wigs.

Your parents and their representative

Parents can ask someone to help them at the hearing. This person is their representative. Your parents can also bring witnesses to tell the panel about how you are doing in school. Someone from your school, such as a teacher or support assistant might be there. Sometimes, it might be someone from your family or who knows your family well.



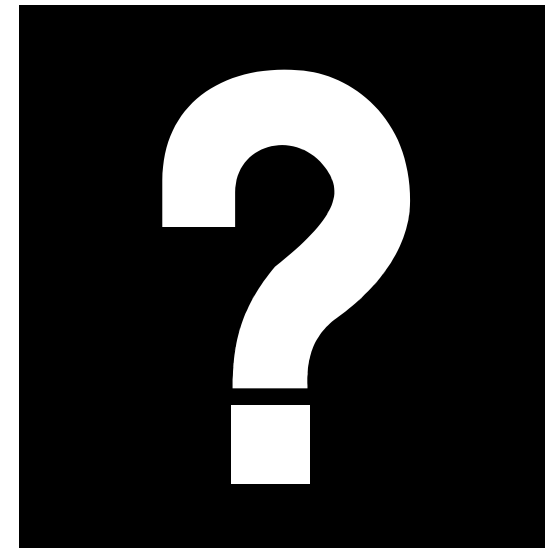
The Children's Service

The Children's Service (sometimes called the Local Authority) may also have a representative and a witness. A teacher or someone else from your school might also be there with them.



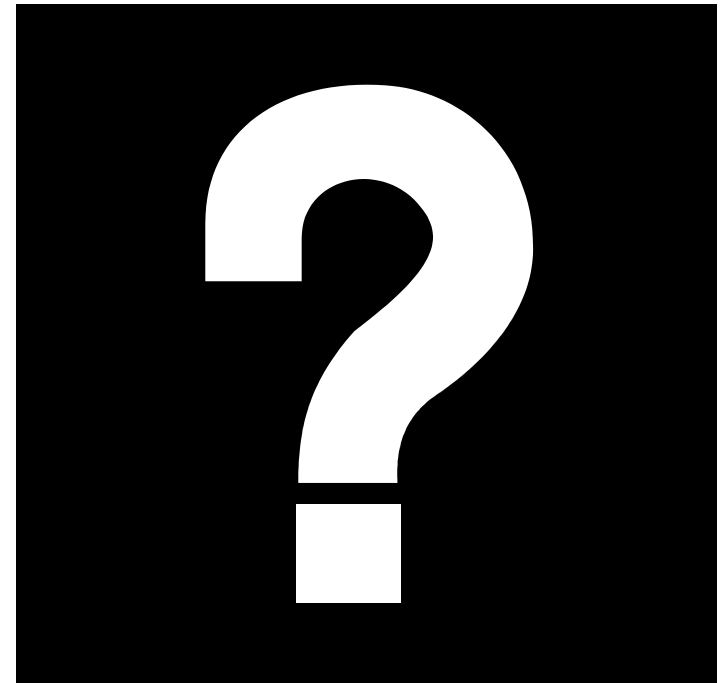
Will I stay in the hearing room all the time?

Most children stay for the start of the hearing and then are taken back to school by a family friend or a relative. You will be asked to tell the panel how you feel about school at the moment, what you like to do in school, and what you think needs to happen to help you learn. Your parents representative and the Children's Service representative might also ask you some questions about school. You will sit with your parents and can leave the hearing room at any time.



What will happen at the Tribunal?

Your parents and the other visitors will sit at a long table. The tribunal panel will sit at the other side of the table. Your parents will be invited to tell the panel about your work in school. People from the Children's Service will then tell the panel what they do to help you to learn. The panel will ask your parents and the Children's Service some questions. Most hearings last for either a morning or an afternoon but some hearings can last all day



What happens after the hearing?

When the hearing is finished your parents will go home. The panel will stay behind and talk about all they have heard. They will stay until they decide what should happen. The tribunal will send your parents a letter after about three weeks

